

REMARKS


This is a Preliminary Amendment filed with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE). Upon entry of this Preliminary Amendment, claims 1-9 and 14-19 are pending in this application and claims 10-13 and 20-22 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer or withdrawn. It is believed that the foregoing amendments add no new matter to the present application.

The Examiner indicated in the Interview Summary dated Feb. 9, 2004, that the amendments made herein are allowable over the prior art of record. It should be noted Applicants made minor changes to the claims reviewed and approved by the Examiner. The changes include changing "monolith" to "monolithic" in claim 1 and 6. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-9 and 14-19 are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request that the Examiner issue this case. If in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

Favorable action in regard to the application is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted ,

**THOMAS, KAYDEN, HORSTEMEYER
& RISLEY, L.L.P.**

By: 
Christopher B. Linder; Reg. No.: 47,751

100 Galleria Parkway, N.W.
Suite 1750
Atlanta, Georgia 30339
(770) 933-9500